

HEALTH

Summer Quarterly Report: July 2007

HIV and the Four Corners Region

Located in a high desert plain in the Southwest U.S., the Four Corners region – Arizona (AZ), Colorado (CO), New Mexico (NM), and Utah (UT) - is the only place in the country where four states touch. Three of the four corners are on the Navajo Reservation and the fourth, in Colorado, is on the Ute Mountain Reservation.

Figure 1. The Four Corners – UT, CO, NM, and AZ (clockwise beginning from upper left)



Source: www.wikipedia.org

New Mexico is the largest of the four states, the 5th largest in the US. In 2005, AZ had the largest estimated total population (5,953,007) and NM had the smallest (1,968,340). All four states had an equal distribution of men and women, except in NM where there were slightly more women (51%) than men (49%).

According to the US Census¹, in 2005, in AZ (61%), CO (71%), and UT (83%) Whites made up the majority of the total state population. New Mexico, considered a majority-minority state where Hispanics and Whites make up equal proportions of the state population, was 43% Hispanic and 43% White. New Mexico has the second largest population of Native Americans in the country²; in 2005, they made up 10% of the state population. African Americans made up small proportions of each state's total population ranging from 4% in CO to 1% in UT. Colorado and UT (3% respectively) had

the largest proportions of Asians/Pacific Islanders.^{1,2}

HIV/AIDS in the Four Corners Region: A Comparison

All Four Corner states have name-based HIV reporting and offer both confidential and anonymous HIV testing. The four states began collecting data on AIDS cases at the beginning of the epidemic and all, except NM, began the collection of data on cases of HIV in the late 1980s (see Table 1).

Table 1. Year when AIDS and HIV became reportable in Four Corner states

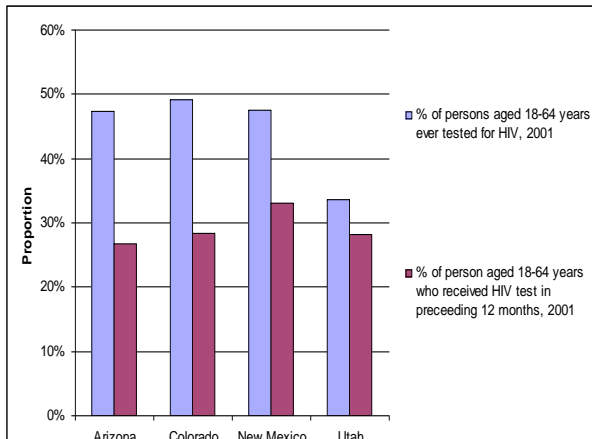
	AIDS	HIV
Arizona	1981	1987
Colorado	1985	1985
New Mexico	1981	1998
Utah	1983	1989

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, HIV surveillance programs in AZ, CO, NM, UT

In 2001 it was estimated that almost half of people living in AZ, CO, and NM and about 33% in UT had ever been tested for HIV (see Figure 2). New Mexico (33%) had the highest percentage of people aged 18-64 years who reported having been tested for HIV in the preceding 12 months. Utah and CO reported 28% and AZ reported 27%.²

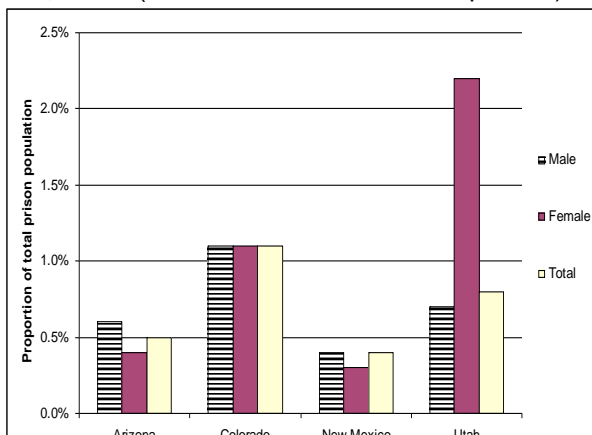
In 2005, total state and federal prison incarceration rates varied for the Four Corners Region: AZ – 502, CO – 447, NM – 327, and UT – 240 (all rates per 100,000 prison population). The number of HIV positive inmates ranged from 185 in CO (1.1% of total prison population) to 25 in NM (0.4% of total prison population) (see Figure 3). Utah had the largest proportion of HIV positive female prisoners (2.2%) and CO had the largest proportion of HIV positive male prisoners (1.1%).³

Figure 2. Proportion of people aged 18-64 years reporting HIV testing in Four Corners states, 2001



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

Figure 3. HIV positive inmates as a proportion of the total prison* population by sex, 2005 (*Includes state and federal prisons)



Source: US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Nov 2006

Cumulative AIDS Cases

Based on the most recent surveillance report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)⁴, in 2005 the overall AIDS case rate for the US was 14.0 per 100,000. Each of the Four Corner states was below the national rate with AZ having the highest and UT having the lowest (AZ - 10.8, CO - 7.7, NM - 7.1, and UT - 2.6 (all rates per 100,000)).² The number of cumulative AIDS cases was greatest in AZ (9,952) followed by CO (8,480), NM (2,526), and UT (2,261). Within all four states, the greatest proportion of AIDS cases was among men where it ranged from 90% to 92%. Whites made up the largest proportion of cumulative cases of AIDS in all four states.

In 2005, the highest AIDS cases rates among White (10.8) and Asian/Pacific Islander (7.8) adults and adolescents (all rates per 100,000 adult population) were found in Arizona (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative AIDS case rates among adults and adolescents in Four Corner states by race/ethnicity, 2005

	AZ	CO	NM	UT
Hispanic	15.8	13.7	9.6	8.9
White	10.8	6.6	7.1	2.5
AA	45.4	42.5	18.8	23.2
NA	14.2	13.4	9.9	8.8
A/PI	7.8	5.7	4.8	0.0

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation; Hispanic, White, African American (AA), Native American (NA), Asian/Pacific Islander (A/PI); rates per 100,000 adult and adolescent population.

Hispanics made up the second largest proportion of AIDS cases in the Four Corners Region; however in NM they made up a larger proportion (35%) than in the other three states (Hispanics were 20% or less of AIDS cases in AZ, CO, UT). In 2005, Hispanics had the highest AIDS case rate in AZ (15.8 per 100,000 adult population).

African Americans in all four states had the highest AIDS case rate for all racial/ethnic groups: in 2005, the highest AIDS case rate was in AZ (45.4) followed by CO (42.5), UT (23.2), and NM (18.8) (rates per 100,000 adult population).²

Native Americans made up a significantly larger proportion of cumulative AIDS cases in NM (6%) than in the other three states. However, in 2005, the highest AIDS case rate in Native Americans was in AZ (14.2 per 100,000 adult population).²

In all Four Corner states, the HIV epidemic is mainly concentrated among MSM. In 2005 among cumulative AIDS cases the proportion of MSM was more than 60% in all four states (see Table 3). In NM and CO the second largest proportion was MSM/IDU (11% each). In contrast, in UT and AZ the second largest proportion was among IDU (16%, 13%, respectively).²

Table 3. Proportion of cumulative AIDS cases in Four Corner states by mode of exposure, 2005

	AZ	CO	NM	UT
MSM	62%	67%	64%	61%
IDU	13%	9%	10%	16%
MSM/IDU	12%	11%	11%	10%
Heterosexual	7%	6%	7%	6%
Pediatric	0%	1%	0%	1%
Other	3%	2%	2%	3%
NIR	3%	4%	6%	3%

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation; Men who have sex with men (MSM); injection drug users (IDU); high-risk heterosexuals (Heterosexual); hemophiliacs, transfusion/transplant recipients, and healthcare workers (Other); no identified risk (NIR); and perinatal or < 13 years at time of infection (Pediatric)

People Living with AIDS (PLWA)

As reported in 2007 by each state⁴, AZ had the largest number of PLWA (5,540); NM was third (see Table 4). Like cumulative AIDS cases, the majority of PLWA in the Four Corner Region were among men.

Table 4. Proportion of PLWA in Four Corner states by sex, race/ethnicity, and mode of exposure, 2007⁴

	AZ n=5540	CO n=4145	NM n=2038	UT n=1170
Sex				
Male	88%	89%	90%	89%
Female	12%	11%	10%	11%
Race/ethnicity				
Hispanic	24%	20%	35%	17%
White	61%	63%	51%	72%
AA	10%	15%	6%	8%
NA	4%	1%	7%	2%
A/PI	1%	1%	1%	1%
Risk exposure				
MSM	64%	63%	63%	59%
IDU	14%	10%	11%	15%
MSM/IDU	11%	9%	12%	11%
Hetero	10%	10%	9%	8%
Pediatric	1%	0%	0%	0%
Other/NIR	2%	8%	5%	8%

Source: HIV surveillance programs AZ, CO, NM, UT; Hispanic, White, African American (AA), Native American (NA), Asian/Pacific Islander (A/PI)

PLWA in the Four Corner Region tended to be mostly White, though in NM the percentage of White PLWA was the lowest (51%). Hispanics were the second largest PLWA racial/ethnic group in every state: in NM they made up the largest proportion of PLWA (35%). Colorado had the highest proportion of African Americans (15%) living with AIDS. New Mexico had the highest proportion of Native Americans (7%) living with AIDS.

About two-thirds of all PLWA in each of the Four Corner's states were MSM. The highest proportion of cases who were IDU was in UT (15%). The percentage of PLWA MSM/IDU was largest in NM (12%). Heterosexual contact represented the greatest proportions in AZ (10%) and CO (10%). Other/No Identified Risk was highest in CO and UT (8% respectively).

Conclusion

As reported by the CDC, in 2005, there were 35,537 people newly infected with HIV in the US. In that same year there were 709 in AZ, 371 in CO, 102 in NM, and 100 in UT.² Despite small numbers, the Four Corners Region has some aspects (Native American reservations, close proximity to US-Mexican border, fast growing populations in certain states, high poverty levels in certain areas) that may make the area unique in terms of the growing HIV epidemic and future prevention efforts.

References:

1. U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov; (for NM) BBER at UNM 2005 population estimates, released in 2007
2. Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org
3. Maruschak L. HIV in prisons, 2004. Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, U.S. Department of Justice. Nov 2006
4. CDC, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report: Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the U.S., 2005
5. AZ HIV Epidemiology Program, Annual Report 2007 <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/hiv/>; UT Department of Health, HIV/AIDS Surveillance <http://health.utah.gov/cdc/sp.htm>; CO Department of Public Health and Environment, HIV and AIDS in Colorado: Monitoring the Epidemic, March 2007 <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/HIVandSTD/>; and NM HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program

HIV/AIDS IN NEW MEXICO FACT SHEET

Cases reported through July 31, 2007

In previous reports, the HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program summarized only cases diagnosed in New Mexico. Living cases diagnosed in New Mexico are used by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to represent prevalent cases. However, data that include out-of-state diagnoses provide a better reflection of local prevalence patterns and are now also provided in the summary.

	Cases diagnosed in New Mexico					All cases in New Mexico				
	N	Living %	Rate*	Cumulative N	Cumulative %	N	Living %	Rate	Cumulative N	Cumulative %
Type of case										
HIV	914	42%	46.4	985	27%	1270	38%	64.5	1360	26%
AIDS	1274	58%	64.7	2612	73%	2042	62%	103.7	3889	74%
Sex										
Male	1902	87%	196.4	3213	89%	2910	88%	300.5	4713	90%
Female	286	13%	28.6	384	11%	402	12%	40.2	536	10%
Race/Ethnicity										
White	966	44%	114.0	1750	49%	1656	50%	195.4	2791	53%
Hispanic	960	44%	112.3	1441	40%	1199	36%	140.3	1790	34%
Native American	143	7%	72.1	212	6%	232	7%	116.9	339	6%
African American	108	5%	272.5	177	5%	206	6%	519.7	304	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11	1%	39.2	17	0%	19	1%	67.7	25	0%
Region at Diagnosis**										
Region 1 (Northwest)	275	13%	67.0	420	12%	313	9%	76.3	479	9%
Region 2 (Northeast)	436	20%	146.5	756	21%	521	16%	175.0	905	17%
Region 3 (Bernalillo Co.)	994	45%	161.8	1713	48%	1137	34%	185.0	1974	38%
Region 4 (Southeast)	127	6%	50.9	223	6%	158	5%	63.3	274	5%
Region 5 (Southwest)	356	16%	89.8	485	13%	402	12%	101.4	567	11%
Out of state	-	-	-	-	-	781	24%	-	1050	20%
Age at Diagnosis										
< 13	7	0%	2.0	11	0%	14	0%	4.0	21	0%
13-19	53	2%	25.4	56	2%	66	2%	31.6	71	1%
20-29	501	23%	180.8	729	20%	768	23%	277.1	1098	21%
30-39	875	40%	363.4	1487	41%	1367	41%	567.7	2251	43%
40-49	559	26%	189.9	937	26%	831	25%	282.4	1329	25%
50+	193	9%	32.5	377	10%	266	8%	44.7	479	9%
Exposure Risk										
MSM	1296	59%	-	2197	61%	2005	61%	-	3250	62%
IDU	225	10%	-	368	10%	346	10%	-	543	10%
MSM/IDU	192	9%	-	348	10%	346	10%	-	580	11%
Heterosexual	235	11%	-	297	8%	319	10%	-	399	8%
Other	26	1%	-	64	2%	35	1%	-	80	2%
No Identified Risk	201	9%	-	305	8%	239	7%	-	366	7%
Pediatric	13	1%	-	18	1%	22	1%	-	31	1%
TOTALS	2188	100%	111.2	3597	100%	3312	100%	168.3	5249	100%

*Rates per 100,000 based on Bureau of Business and Economic Research data for 2005; **Residence at time of HIV or AIDS diagnosis.

HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program, New Mexico Department of Health
 1190 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110
 (505) 476-3515 • Fax (505) 476-3544
<http://www.health.state.nm.us/hiv-aids.html>